Seniors

BUSINESS PLAN 2015–18

ACCOUNTABILITY STATEMENT

This business plan was prepared under my direction, taking into consideration the government's policy decisions as of October 15, 2015.

original signed by

Sarah Hoffman, Minister

THE MINISTRY

The ministry consists of the Department of Seniors and the Alberta Social Housing Corporation.

The ministry promotes the health and well-being of seniors who helped build Alberta and continue to contribute to the strength of Alberta's families and communities. The ministry also supports those in need of affordable housing options and services. The ministry works with seniors, Albertans who require housing supports, their families and caregivers, communities and other government partners to support the independence and dignity of citizens.

A more detailed description of the ministry and its programs and initiatives can be found at www.seniors.alberta.ca.

LINK TO GOVERNMENT OF ALBERTA STRATEGIC DIRECTION

The desired outcomes and priority initiatives identified in this business plan are aligned with the strategic direction of the Government of Alberta.

STRATEGIC CONTEXT

A growing population

Alberta's population will continue to grow and is forecast to reach 5 million people in just over 10 years. As it grows, the median age will increase and it will become increasingly diverse as arrivals from other countries will account for a significant share of new residents. The number of seniors (65 years of age and older) in Alberta grows by just over 50 people each day and is projected to almost double by 2030, reaching almost 1 million and representing almost 20 per cent of the population. Within the seniors group there will also be a rapid rise in the share of the general population who are 80 years of age and older. These numbers are important when planning to meet the demand for services such as health care, seniors' housing and facility-based care while bringing stability to the system.

Seniors contribute in many ways to the health and well-being of Alberta. They bring experience and knowledge to a wide variety of workplaces and their families. Alberta's seniors enhance communities through many ways including volunteerism. About half of Alberta's seniors (49.6 per cent) participate in some sort of community volunteer work, higher than the national average of 36.5 per cent. They are important members of Alberta's communities and government is committed to providing the supports and respect they deserve to live with dignity.

In addition to providing services to Albertans 65 years of age and older, the ministry also provides housing supports to Albertans with diverse needs, including persons with disabilities, Albertans affected by mental illness and addictions and low-income families. In times of economic growth, higher housing costs make it increasingly difficult for low-income Albertans to access appropriate housing. When the economy slows, affordability may improve but demand may increase as more people seek housing support. Whether the economy is growing, slowing or stabilizing as Alberta's overall population grows, the need for affordable housing increases.

Changes to federal support programs

Federal-provincial cost-sharing agreements supporting affordable housing, which have been in place for decades, will expire between now and 2033. With no new federal funding commitments in place, the financial sustainability of Alberta's current social and affordable housing model will be a significant challenge.

Maintaining the province's stock of social and affordable housing also presents a related challenge. The majority of Alberta's government-owned and supported housing facilities were built between 1960 and 1980, with 50 to 60-year lifespans. Annual investment in the renewal and preservation of these aging buildings is required to ensure the safety, security and comfort of residents.

Beginning in 2023, the federal government has said it will increase the eligibility age for the main federal income support programs for seniors, Old Age Security and the Guaranteed Income Supplement. This change will have significant implications for seniors and their families.

Meeting diverse needs

Alberta's changing demographic, health care and other societal trends are reflected in the programs Seniors and its partners provide to support the aging population and those in need of affordable housing. The needs of those served are often complex and multi-faceted, requiring collaboration across government. For example, as Albertans live longer into their 80s and 90s, the incidence of dementia is expected to increase which requires different types of care approaches and care settings.

Seniors has an important role to play in addressing these issues and ensuring that clients have the right level of care, with the right provider, in the right place and at the right time. This includes making evidence-based decisions and coordinating work with other ministries to develop and implement collaborative community-based approaches that assist seniors and other Albertans in need of support.

DESIRED OUTCOMES, PRIORITY INITIATIVES, PERFORMANCE MEASURES, PERFORMANCE MEASURES UNDER DEVELOPMENT AND PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Desired Outcome One: Seniors are safe and able to live with dignity

Seniors is committed to developing environments that enhance the safety and well-being of seniors. Working in collaboration with Health, Seniors will create long-term care spaces to ensure seniors can access the care they need, when they need it. The ministry will also undertake upgrades to existing seniors' accommodations to address fire and safety code concerns and raising awareness of the signs of elder abuse, supporting prevention initiatives and community-based response. Elder abuse can take many forms, including neglect, medicinal, emotional, physical, sexual and financial. The ministry's elder abuse strategy provides an overall context for how government will work with all sectors to prevent and address elder abuse and improve support for Albertans affected by elder abuse.

Priority Initiatives:

1.1 Work with Health to support the creation of 2,000 new long-term public care spaces over the next four years.

1.2 Implement an elder abuse strategy that focuses on awareness and prevention and supports community-based responses.

1.3 Collaborate with stakeholders to develop environments that enhance seniors' safety and well-being.

1.4 Address the fire code and safety issues surrounding existing seniors' accommodations in Alberta.

Performance Indicator	Actual 2012-13	Actual 2013-14	Actual 2014-15
2.a Increase in awareness of elder abuse indicators and available resources for clients:			
• Post-training, the percentage of community service providers who reported increased awareness of how to identify, prevent and report elder abuse	82%	94%	85%
• Post-training, the percentage of community service providers who reported increased ability to respond to elder abuse	91%	96%	89%

Desired Outcome Two: Seniors are empowered to live independently and stay in their chosen communities

Government wants seniors to be empowered to stay in their home communities and to live healthy, active lives. The ministry provides support that allows seniors to maintain their independence and continue to participate in family and community life. The ministry provides a number of programs to support seniors including financial assistance for low-income individuals through the Alberta Seniors Benefit, the Special Needs Assistance for Seniors program and the Seniors Property Tax Deferral program.

Priority Initiatives:

2.1 Develop and provide individual and community-based supports that enable seniors to stay in their homes and remain active in their communities.

2.2 Increase awareness of supports for seniors.

2.3 Continue to create opportunities for seniors to leverage their resources to contribute to their independence.

2.4 Work with other ministries, levels of government and community partners to empower seniors and provide the supports they need.

Performance Measure	Last Actual 2012	Target 2015-16	Target 2016-17	Target 2017-18
1.a Seniors' Average Income:				
• Percentage by which seniors average income exceeds the Canadian average	+18.3%	Continue to exceed national average		

Desired Outcome Three: Appropriate housing and housing supports will be available to those most in need

The ministry works to ensure that housing and related supports are available to vulnerable people across the province. Funding goes toward new and existing developments, as the ministry provides both operational and capital funding to maintain, renovate and develop housing. The ministry also provides capital grants to help develop and upgrade supportive and facility living accommodation options in communities across Alberta. These supports enable individuals to live independently and in their home communities.

Priority Initiatives:

3.1 Work with all levels of government and housing providers on program renewal initiatives to provide sustainable housing programs serving those most in need.

3.2 Using a co-management approach with housing providers, promote effective asset management and project development strategies for effective preservation and renewal of government-owned and supported housing.

3.3 Renew government disaster recovery housing programs, including disaster mitigation, response and recovery protocols for government-owned and supported housing.

3.4 Collaborate with housing management bodies and other housing providers on enhancing their capacity to provide local housing options for those most in need.

Performance Measure	Last Actual 2013-14	Target 2015-16	Target 2016-17	Target 2017-18
3.a Housing facilities condition rating index:				
• Percentage in good condition	33%	34%	35%	36%
• Percentage in fair condition	62%	62%	62%	62%
• Percentage in poor condition	5%	4%	3%	2%

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

Consolidated Financial Statements Basis

(thousands of dollars)	Comparable 2014-15 Actual	**2015-16 Estimate**	2016-17 Target	2017-18 Target
REVENUE				
Other Transfers from Government of Canada	75,945	**92,632**	92,447	92,282
Investment Income	2,329	**2,105**	2,200	2,400
Other Revenue	38,457	**7,530**	6,845	6,845
Total	116,731	**102,267**	101,492	101,527
EXPENSE				
Ministry Support Services	5,914	**9,471**	9,471	9,471
Seniors Services	36,789	**35,758**	35,767	35,767
Alberta Seniors Benefit	338,384	**352,509**	352,509	352,509
Housing	9,296	**12,830**	12,830	12,830
Affordable Supportive Living Initiative	10,758	**-**	-	-
Alberta Social Housing Corporation	241,047	**208,852**	216,891	214,942
2013 Alberta Flooding	4,465	**480**	-	-
Total	646,653	**619,900**	627,468	625,519
Net Operating Result	(529,922)	**(517,633)**	(525,976)	(523,992)
CAPITAL INVESTMENT				
Alberta Social Housing Corporation	88,382	**168,034**	116,725	143,758
Total	88,382	**168,034**	116,725	143,758